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the Bureau of Ethnology, is doing much ; but the collection should be as extensive as possible, and the work of the government needs to be supplemented by private investigation.

Unfortunately, the American public is indifferent to the necessity. The indifference no doubt arises from ignorance ; but such an excuse is hardly valid in the case of our universities and libraries. Certainly private benefactors are doing something : it is only necessary to mention the work of the Hemenway Exploring Expeditions in Arizona, and the undertakings of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology. But it seems strange that the rich Western communities are willing to see their monuments — monuments which will be as precious to America as Stonehenge to Great Britain — perishing, or preserved only by Eastern gifts. Why does Cincinnati allow women of Boston to have the eternal credit of saving the Serpent Mound, which in five years would have ceased to exist, had not the generosity of individuals interfered ? Why does Cincinnati, when its attention has been so forcibly called to the matter, allow similar remains to disappear ? Why does not the great and wealthy State of California do something to maintain the monuments and record the traditions of the native races whom the white men have dispossessed and degraded ? The time has passed in which it was proper for an intelligent person to look on an Indian with general contempt, as a dirty brute, whose ideas are of no consequence. But it is of little use, apparently, to preach ; we shall go on making amends for our lack of attention to these obligations by self-laudation and encomiums on national prosperity. The student of religions a century hence will find gaps where there might have been a solid highway, and will console himself by uncomplimentary remarks. — *W. W. N.*

FOLK-LORE AND MYTHOLOGY. — In the first number of this journal it was pointed out that it was the intention of the editors to include the mythology of the native races in the scope of their labors, an inclusion obviously wise and necessary. But, in making this statement, it was by no means intended to discuss the relation of the terms "folk-lore" and "mythology." As to whether these terms can be precisely distinguished, or limited to separate provinces, opinions may differ. The appellation "mythology" will continue to be applied to that living system of tales and beliefs which, in primitive peoples, serves to explain existence ; "folk-lore" was primarily invented to describe the unwritten popular traditions of civilized countries. Had it not been out of regard to brevity, this publication might have been called the "Journal of American Folk-Lore and Mythology."

PRESERVATION OF ARCHÆOLOGIC MONUMENTS. — It is proposed to set aside certain portions of the public domain in the southwest territories in which are characteristic remains of former and of present aboriginal life, and to hold them as national reserves, and a bill to accomplish that end is now pending in Congress. The progress of this legislation will be watched with great interest by all Americans who consider a proper respect to the history and monuments of America essential to national honor. This